GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2922
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2001
ARREST OF INCOME TAX OFFICIALS
ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN;HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Income Tax Officers have been caught red handed while taking bribe;

(b) if so, the details of the last three years;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to prevent corruption in I.T. Department;

(d) whether it is a fact that due to nefarious activities of these corrupt officials there is substantial reduction in collection of revenues by the departments; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government to increase collection of revenues?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of officers caught while taking bribe during the last three years is as under :-

Year	No. of cases
1999	5
2000	2
2001	6 (upto 30.11.2001)

(c) A restructured set up has been put in place in the Income Tax Department, under which there shall be close monitoring by supervisory authorities, to check corruption. The vigilance machinery of the Department has been strengthened by upgrading the existing Directorate of Income Tax(Vigilance) to the level of Directorate General of Income Tax(Vigilance). Four regional Directorates of Income Tax(Vigilance) have also been created at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

(d) Figures regarding collection of direct taxes have not been ascertained so far.

(e) The following steps have been taken in respect of direct taxes :-

(i) Legislative amendments are periodically brought about to expand the tax base and ensure better tax compliance and tax administration.

(ii) Collection out of arrear demand by monitoring of Dossier cases having demands more than Rs.10 lakhs of various levels.

(iii) Expeditious disposal of stay petitions.

(iv) Monitoring of Advance Tax payments by top corporates, tax payments by exporters and foreign exchange earners, TDS deductors and Action Plan for Tax Recovery Officers.

(v) Ensuring early hearing by ITAT in cases where demands are stayed, expeditious disposal of high demand cases by CIT(Appeals) and early completion of assessment in big cases.